

FAQs: Absentee Voting

Q: Does a voter need a Photo ID if they are in an SVD Facility, but are only requesting for one election and not as permanent (indefinitely confined)? These voters may be maintaining their permanent residence at their home and are just at the facility for therapy/rehab.

A: If they are at a facility served by Special Voting Deputies, the signatures of both SVDs on the certificate envelope satisfies the proof of ID requirement.

Q: If someone is extremely ill and not in the hospital, is there any way for them to vote? Can someone take a ballot to them as if they are hospitalized?

A: If they are not in the hospital and missed the by mail deadline, the only option is to vote in the clerk's office or at the polls on Election Day curbside.

Hospitalized voters can request an absentee ballot not more than 7 days before an election and not later than 5 pm on Election Day. They can assign an "agent" to ferry the ballot from and to the municipal clerk. Please review this process starting on page 115 of the Election Administration Manual.

Q: I thought we HAD to be available the Thursday and Friday before the election for absentee ballot requests up until 5 p.m.

A: The clerk sets his or her office hours for in-person absentee voting the two business weeks preceding an election. The clerk or a designee must be available until 5 pm the Friday before the election because it's a deadline for voter registration, indefinitely confined absentee requests, military not away absentee requests and calendar year absentee requests.

Q: In WisVote, will there be a "Photo ID provided" or "Photo ID Exempt" notation that prints on the absentee ballot label? Will these notations print on the absentee ballot log?

A: The notation is printed on the poll list and absentee ballot log. Printing on the label will most likely be included in a future enhancement of the system.

Q: Just to confirm - the late absentee/provisional ballots use to be Friday - now it's Monday?

A: The deadline for a voter to provide provisional voting information or to receive absentees is still Friday, but Monday is the last day for the MBOC to meet for processing any outstanding ballots that were returned.

Q: For example, a person requests an absentee ballot and they are indefinitely confined and do not provide photo id. A ballot is mailed out and returned with a witness signature, does the clerk initial that they are exempt from the photo id requirement?

A: The clerk initials that the voter has met proof of ID requirements after it is returned with the proper witness signature.

Q: So if I receive an email as a written request, can I reply to the email and ask for photo identification if it was not provided?

A: Yes. You can also use the template letter we developed for missing photo ID, the GAB-127.

Q: Do overseas voters need to submit photo ID?

A: Permanent overseas voters do not have to provide proof of identification and can only vote for federal offices. Temporarily overseas voters are regular absentee voters and have to provide proof of ID.

Q: When a person votes absentee in office, we are only to look at the photo ID but not take a copy - correct?

A: Yes, they must show it every time they vote absentee in-person in the clerk's office.

Q: Good Friday falls in the in person absentee voting period for the April election. 1) do we have to be open and available? 2) If we can be closed, do we need to notice this in the Type E notice published on March 8th?

A: Because of where Good Friday falls during the absentee voting period, clerks are not required to be open or available until 5 pm. You should note if you plan to be closed in your Type E Notice.

Q: How long must the ID be kept on file

A: Keep with the GAB-131 and it's valid as long as voter registration is good for.

Q: Photo Id is not required with the absentee ballot request from a hospitalized voter, correct? I know the agent needs to show id, but the voter does not need to include a photo id with the request correct?

A: Hospitalized voters are required to show proof of ID as well.

Q: If a witness address is missing, is the absentee ballot since counted?

A: Yes.

Q: Can anyone be an agent?

A: Yes.

Q: If a person gets two absentee ballots and the second one was not returned.....they come in to vote and they use a machine and they spoil one on the machine, is this considered 3 ballots?

A: It's considered two ballots, because they didn't return the second ballot.

Q: Can we use our previous Official Absentee Application/Certification envelopes; if we write on the envelope "Voter has met or is exempt from the photo ID requirements"?

A: Please send a scanned copy to the GAB Help Desk for an Elections Specialist to review: gab@wi.gov.

Q: Would we initial this if both SVD's have witnessed and addressed the certificate envelope?

A: Yes, you initial the envelope to indicate to your election inspectors that the voter has met the proof of identification requirement.

Q: If someone comes in during the in-person absentee period but doesn't have a photo ID, can he vote a provisional ballot? Or is that only an option on Election Day?

A: Provisional voting is only available in certain situations at the polls on Election Day.